

**Ames Laboratory**  
**Office** Environment, Safety, Health & Assurance  
**Title** NEPA Plan  
**Page** Page 1 of 8

**Plan** 10200.025  
**Revision** 3  
**Effective Date** 08/29/05  
**Review Date** 08/29/08

## Ames Laboratory National Environmental Policy Act Plan

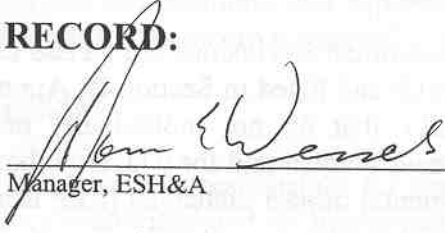
The Ames Laboratory National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Plan shall ensure that all Program Directors/Department Managers and Group/Section Managers properly address environmental concerns involving their research and/or operational activities. The Plan will also ensure environmental concerns of site investigation and restoration activities are addressed. This plan was formerly plan # 46400.007.

Comments and questions regarding this policy and procedure should be directed to the contact person listed below:

Name: Dan Kayser  
Environmental Specialist  
Address: G40 TASF  
Phone: 294-7923


### SIGN-OFF RECORD:

Approved by:

  
Manager, ESH&A

Date: 8/10/05

Reviewed by:

  
Chief Operations Officer


Date: 8/23/05

Reviewed by:

  
Deputy Director

Date: 8/28/05

Reviewed by:

  
ESH&A Assistant Manager

Date: 8/11/05

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## 1.0 Revision/Review Log

The environmental specialist will review this document every three years.

Revision Number	Effective Date	Contact Person	Pages Affected	Description of Revision
0	4/30/95	W. Waters	All	Initial Issue
1	11/1/99	D. Kayser	All	Review
2	11/4/02	D. Kayser	7	Revised Flowchart
3	08/29/05	D. Kayser	All	G:\Doc&Rec\DCP\Revision Description\ Plan 102_025revdesc.doc

## 2.0 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that proposed actions at Ames Laboratory are reviewed in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Department of Energy (DOE). Applicable CEQ guidance is in 40 CFR 1500 through 1508. DOE NEPA is found in 10 CFR 1021. Research activities and site investigation and restoration activities will be conducted in such a manner that worker and public safety, including protection of the environment, is given the highest priority. The Laboratory will comply with all applicable federal and state environmental laws and regulations.

## 3.0 Prerequisite Actions and Requirements

### 3.1 Definitions

**Categorical Exclusion (CX):** Categorical Exclusions are a class of actions, as defined in CEQ Regulations in 40 CFR 1508 and listed in Section D, Appendix A, of the DOE NEPA guidelines (10 CFR 1021), that do not individually or cumulatively have significant impact on the human environment and for which neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is normally required.

**NEPA Environmental Evaluation Notification Form (CH-560):** An Environmental Evaluation Notification Form is a comprehensive checklist that is utilized by the Laboratory's NEPA Coordinator to determine a proposed activities impact on the environment. The checklist may also be used to support a determination for a CX or for a recommendation to a Secretarial Officer in support of a preliminary proposal form (where authority has not been delegated to the Chicago Operations Office Manager).

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**Environmental Assessment (EA):** An Environmental Assessment is a document defined in 40 CFR 1508 that assesses whether a proposed action is a “major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment,” and serves as the basis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** An EIS is a document defined in 40 CFR 1508 and prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA for DOE, the CEQ regulations, and the DOE NEPA guidance. The EIS thoroughly details the environmental impacts of a proposed action.

**ES&H Hazard Identification Checklist (form #10200.003):** This is an internal form that helps the Project Manager and ESH&A identify hazards associated with the proposed activity.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):** A FONSI is a document defined in 40 CFR 1508.13 of the CEQ Regulations. It is prepared to record a decision that the environmental impacts of a proposed activity considered in an EA will not have a significant effect on the environment, and that an EIS is not required for the proposed action.

**Preliminary Proposal Form (#10100.001):** The principal investigator completes this form. The form contains a concise description of a proposed activity and discussion of relevant potential environmental impacts intended to assist ESH&A and DOE Chicago Operations Office (DOE-CH) in determining the appropriate level of NEPA documentation needed for a proposed activity.

**Work Authorization System (WAS):** A comprehensive document describing research proposals and continuations, and requesting funding for the described work. NEPA and safety and health issues are addressed in the WAS for each project individually.

### 3.2 Responsibility

Line management is responsible for assuring minimal environmental impact by the Laboratory’s activities and for implementing the Laboratory’s environmental protection requirements. All employees are responsible for performing their work in a manner that complies with established environmental protection requirements. Employees are encouraged to suggest improvements in the environmental protection program. They have the right to bring to the attention of their supervisors or ESH&A any condition they believe is environmentally unsound or out of compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations or orders. This plan applies to all employees at the main campus, the Applied Science Complex (ASC) and all spaces rented by the Laboratory.

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### **3.3.1 ESH&A Manager:**

The Deputy Director shall approve the Laboratory's NEPA plan to ensure that environmental factors are adequately considered along with other action considerations in the decision making process. The ESH&A Manager has delegated the authority for signatory approval of NEPA documentation to the Laboratory's NEPA Coordinator and the ESH&A Assistant Manager.

### **3.3.2 Program Directors/Department Managers:**

Program Directors and Department Managers are responsible for being knowledgeable of and implementing applicable environmental protection policies, procedures and directives. They are responsible for taking actions as required to assure that personnel and operations they supervise comply with requirements. This includes taking positive action to determine and reduce, to as low as reasonably achievable, the environmental impact associated with their activities. They will ensure that environmental factors are adequately considered along with other action considerations in the decision making process, and inform employees of the environmental hazards associated with their work.

Program Directors and Department Managers shall ensure that the potential environmental consequences of a proposed activity are identified, evaluated, and documented, as necessary. New activities may require completion of an environmental evaluation form (See Appendix A) early in the planning process. Appropriate alternatives and mitigative measures shall be identified and evaluated. They shall ensure that any EA's or EIS's are prepared in accordance with appropriate DOE Orders and CEQ Regulations. The NEPA Coordinator will assist directors and managers in these efforts. They shall inform the NEPA Coordinator in writing, in a timely matter, of all deviations from planned actions which would affect the accuracy and objectivity of completed NEPA documents.

### **3.3.3 Project Manager:**

If required by the NEPA Coordinator or the ESH&A Assistant Manager the Project Manager shall prepare, sign and date an environmental evaluation form for each applicable activity. They shall initiate and coordinate necessary environmental documentation, reviews, and permit applications during the appropriate phases of action development. They shall assess any potential environmental impacts and develop suitable mitigation measures to minimize these impacts. They shall coordinate the applications for any environmental permits through the ESH&A office, and provide the NEPA Coordinator with sufficient documentation in a timely manner so as not to delay the proposed action.

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### **3.3.4 Ames Laboratory NEPA Coordinator:**

The Ames Laboratory NEPA Coordinator shall provide the Project Manager with assistance concerning environmental factors that should be considered in action planning and execution. The NEPA Coordinator shall keep the ESH&A Manager advised of all NEPA activities. The NEPA Coordinator or ESH&A Assistant Manager shall review each **Preliminary Proposal Form (#10100.001) and determine if the proposed activity falls under the Laboratory's CX B3.6, for "Indoor Bench-Scale Research Projects and Conventional Laboratory Operations."** (See Appendix A). In coordination with the ESH&A Manager, the Coordinator shall advise the Project Manager and the applicable Program Director/Department Manager, of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations, and Ames Laboratory or DOE policies. The Coordinator shall conduct reviews of the environmental evaluations for accuracy and completeness, and sign, date and transmit them to DOE-Chicago Operations Office. The NEPA Coordinator shall process and coordinate all necessary environmental permit applications through the DOE-Chicago Operations Office, and shall transmit DOE NEPA determinations and information requests to the appropriate Project Manager. The ESH&A Office shall maintain environmental documentation for all actions, including NEPA documentation in a suitable format for compliance auditing.

### **3.3.5 ESH&A Assistant Manager:**

The ESH&A Assistant Manager shall assume the duties of the NEPA Coordinator in his absence and shall have signature authority as delegated by the ESH&A Manager.

## **4.0 Introduction Statement**

All new or continuing activities, including projects, programs, and activities entirely or partly financed, assisted, conducted, regulated or approved by DOE shall require NEPA evaluation prior to commencement of the proposed activity. Each work proposal shall be identified with one of the four Work Authorization Systems (WAS) categories. If NEPA documentation needs to be prepared for DOE approval, it shall result in a categorical exclusion (CX), an environmental assessment (EA), or environmental impact statement (EIS).

## **5.0 NEPA Policy (# 10200.008) formerly # 46400.007**

It is the policy of Ames Laboratory to conduct all its activities in an environmentally safe manner. This will be accomplished through formal reviews and evaluations at appropriate levels of the organizational structure.

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## 6.0 NEPA Procedure (# 10200.050) formerly # 46400.033

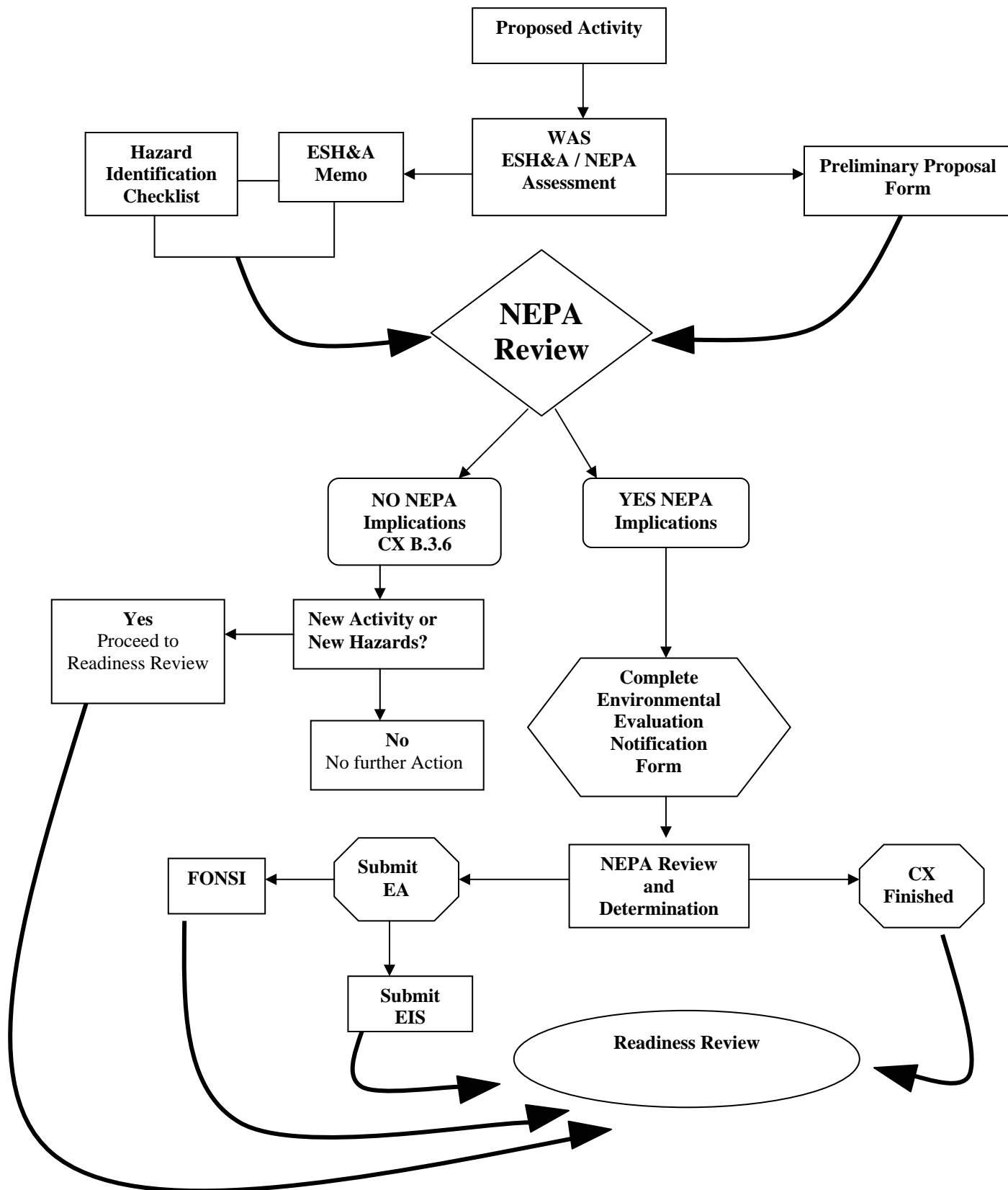
Work Authorization Systems (WAS) submissions, along with the ES&H Hazard Identification Checklist (form #10200.003, see Appendix A), and ESH&A Memo (see Appendix A) are reviewed by the NEPA Coordinator and/or ESH&A Assistant Manager. The NEPA Coordinator or Assistant ESH&A Manager should be contacted during preliminary proposal stage of all proposed activities. The preliminary proposal (form # 10100.001, see Appendix A) is reviewed by the NEPA Coordinator and/or the assistant ESH&A Manager. The DOE-CH NEPA Compliance Officer will be consulted as needed by the NEPA Coordinator. The NEPA Coordinator will provide guidance on the NEPA review process and on preparation of the environmental evaluation form, if required, to the appropriate personnel.

If the proposed activity does not fall under the **Laboratory's CX for "Indoor Bench-Scale Research Projects and Conventional Laboratory Operations"** the Project Manager of the proposed activity must fill-out the environmental evaluation form (form CH-560, see Appendix A). The form is then given to the NEPA Coordinator. The NEPA Coordinator for accuracy and completeness reviews the completed environmental evaluation form. If the form is found to be incompletely prepared, or inaccurate, the Project Manager will be requested to provide the necessary information. When the environmental evaluation has been satisfactorily prepared, the NEPA Coordinator will sign and date the form and transmit to the DOE-CH NEPA Compliance Officer.

The environmental evaluation is reviewed by DOE-CH for accuracy and completeness. If the environmental form is found to be deficient in any way, the NEPA Coordinator will be requested by DOE-CH to obtain the additional information from the Project Manager. DOE's determination as to the level of NEPA documentation (i.e. CX, EA, or EIS) required for the proposed action, is transmitted to the Ames Laboratory's NEPA Coordinator. DOE-CH has authority to approve CX's and some EA's. Upon receipt of the official notification from DOE-CH, the NEPA Coordinator notifies the Project Manager and the appropriate Program Director/Group Manager. Upon receipt of official notification from DOE-CH of a CX determination, the approved activity may proceed. If an EA or EIS is determined to be necessary, the Project Manager must respond to the DOE request by preparing the document and submitting it to DOE via the NEPA Coordinator. After a period of review and document on EA or EIS, DOE will notify the NEPA Coordinator of the final NEPA decision. The NEPA Coordinator will notify the Project Manager and appropriate Program Director/Department Manager of DOE's final decision.

An additional step in the process at Ames Laboratory is supportive to the NEPA procedure. The Readiness Review (Procedure #10200.10) of a new activity addresses all safety, health and environmental concerns. The Project Manager and/or Program Director identify any hazards associated with the proposed activity. ESH&A staff meets to discuss the concerns and to assign a lead specialist. The lead specialist works with the activity supervisor to resolve all safety and environmental concerns from project proposal, equipment procurement, testing and operation of the new activity.

## NEPA REVIEW FLOW CHART



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## **APPENDIX A**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- **ESH&A Memo**
- **Activity ES&H Identification Checklist (form # 10200.003)**
- **Preliminary Proposal Form (form # 10100.001)**
- **CX NEPA Environmental Evaluation Form (CH-560) for “Indoor Bench-Scale Research Projects and Conventional Laboratory Operations.”**



Date:

To: Jim Withers  
ESH&A  
G40 TASF

From:

Re: Activity ES&H Hazard Identification Checklist

Work Proposal No. \_\_\_\_\_, being submitted in the FY2004 Work Authorization System (WAS), contains new or significantly modified activities that may or may not have ES&H issues and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implications. Attached please find \_\_\_\_\_ Activity ES&H Hazard Identification Checklist(s) that has(have) been completed in conjunction with this project.

Questions may be referred to (name) \_\_\_\_\_ at  
(phone) \_\_\_\_\_.

Attach.

# Activity ES&H Hazard Identification Checklist

Name of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Supervisor: (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Location: Room \_\_\_\_\_ Building \_\_\_\_\_

Rep.'s/Coor.'s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Employee # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Leader's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Employee # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Approved by)

## IMPORTANT! Attach a hazard management statement for each item checked below.

Check all of the following that are applicable to/or involved with the activity. This checklist will be utilized by ESH&A in review of the activity.

### A. Chemical and Biological Concerns

1. ☐ Mercury or mercury compounds (e.g. dimethyl mercury).
2. ☐ Research involving human subjects or animal studies.
3. ☐ Chemicals requiring personnel medical monitoring (see "Federally Regulated Hazards": [www.ameslab.gov/esh/HazardInventory.pdf](http://www.ameslab.gov/esh/HazardInventory.pdf)).
4. ☐ Hazardous or toxic chemicals ([www.ameslab.gov/esh/CHPAppendixA&BAcuteHazWastes.pdf](http://www.ameslab.gov/esh/CHPAppendixA&BAcuteHazWastes.pdf)).
5. ☐ Extremely hazardous substances ([www.epa.gov/swercepp/ehs/ehsalp.html](http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/ehs/ehsalp.html)).
6. ☐ Flammable chemicals (flashpoint < 100°F) in quantities greater than 4 liters (1 gallon) in one room.
7. ☐ Perchloric or picric acid, peroxide-formers ([www.ameslab.gov/esh/CHPAppendicesK&L&MPeroxideFormers2.pdf](http://www.ameslab.gov/esh/CHPAppendicesK&L&MPeroxideFormers2.pdf)).
8. ☐ Pyrophoric or explosive materials ([www.ameslab.gov/esh/CHPAppendicesH&IIncompatiblesShockers.pdf](http://www.ameslab.gov/esh/CHPAppendicesH&IIncompatiblesShockers.pdf)).
9. ☐ Activities that generate potentially hazardous ambient air concentrations of particulates, mists, fumes, vapors, or asphyxiates.
10. ☐ Generation of chemical, mixed, or radioactive waste (as defined by the Ames Laboratory Waste Management Program Manual).
11. ☐ Generation of new waste streams, or a > 20% increase in an existing waste stream.
12. ☐ Biological materials ([www.ameslab.gov/esh/ISUBiohazardousAgentsList.pdf](http://www.ameslab.gov/esh/ISUBiohazardousAgentsList.pdf)).
13. ☐ Suspected and/or confirmed carcinogens ([www.ameslab.gov/esh/CHPAppendicesD&ECarcinogens.pdf](http://www.ameslab.gov/esh/CHPAppendicesD&ECarcinogens.pdf)).

### B. Radiation Concerns

1. ☐ Radioactive materials, radiation sources.
2. ☐ Lasers (excludes laser printers and pointers).
3. ☐ Radio frequency (RF) or microwave generators (excluding personal microwave ovens) of greater than 10 watts average output power.
4. ☐ Ultraviolet radiation, which could expose personnel (e.g. arc welding, inductively coupled plasma, UV reactors, xenon lamps, etc.).
5. ☐ Generation of Radioactively contaminated waste as defined by the Ames Laboratory Waste Management Program Manual.
6. ☐ X-ray generating devices.

### C. Electrical Concerns

1. ☐ Work with exposed electrical wiring or parts with voltages greater than 50 volts.
2. ☐ Work with stored energy systems (e.g. capacitor banks > 10 joules; station battery systems > 50 volts).
3. ☐ Voltage systems of greater than 600 volts.
4. ☐ Current systems of greater than 25 amps.
5. ☐ Electrical devices not certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (e.g. Underwriters Laboratory, CSA, etc.).

### D. Environmental Concerns

1. ☐ Potential to release hazardous or radioactive materials to the sanitary or storm sewers, soil or air.
2. ☐ Potential for release of chemical, physical, or radiological agents (particulates, fumes, mists, or vapors) via a fume hood or exhaust system.
3. ☐ Transportation of hazardous or radioactive materials, both on and off site, as defined by DOT.
4. ☐ Activities requiring an emission permit.

### E. Physical and Mechanical Concerns

1. ☐ Fabrication of major (large mass or volume) equipment, structural supports.
2. ☐ Work that is done in the proximity of floor openings or on elevated work platforms or scaffolds.
3. ☐ Activities that require use of safety eyewear, respirators and/or other forms of personal protective equipment (PPE).
4. ☐ Use of a glove box.
5. ☐ Torch work, exposed source hot-work, or exposed heat sources (e.g. welding, soldering, arc welding, furnaces, etc.).
6. ☐ Rotating parts or pinch points.
7. ☐ Fluids or gases and pressure delivery systems, other than installed building utilities (> +/- 5 psig).
8. ☐ Pressure vessels, vacuum vessels, and glass systems (> +/- 5 psig).
9. ☐ Use of hoists, cranes or rigging.
10. ☐ Cryogenic systems (including thermal and/or oxygen deficiency hazards).
11. ☐ Mechanical stored energy systems (e.g. flywheels, mechanical springs, etc.).
12. ☐ Electromagnetic systems.

### F. Workplace Concerns

1. ☐ Confined space (as defined by Ames Laboratory ESH&A Program Manual, Section 5.18).
2. ☐ Activities that limit means of egress.
3. ☐ Temperature or humidity extremes.
4. ☐ Work which produces acute noise that interferes with normal conversation.
5. ☐ Activities that involve tasks of prolonged repetitive motion.
6. ☐ Activities that involve lifting/moving of 20 pounds, lifting from awkward positions, or pushing/pulling of heavy objects.

### G. Other Concerns

1. ☐ Activities involving sub-contractors.
2. ☐ Public tours of Ames Laboratory facilities or the use of equipment/materials for public displays.
3. ☐ Area renovation.
4. ☐ Activities that involve the installation of equipment valued at \$100,000 or more in one room or laboratory.
5. ☐ Activities to be performed at an "off-site" location (ISU lab space, field location, or other off-campus facility). Only check this item if any other item is checked.

## PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FORM

### Part 1. Proposed Work Description *(To be completed by the Principal Investigator)*

1. Proposal Number *(obtain by calling 4-6486)*: PP #

2. Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Principal Investigator(s): *If conflict of interest exists, please complete and attach the form "Disclosure of Intent to Engage in Consulting on Activity with Potential Conflict of Interest". See Ames Lab Consulting & Conflict of Interest Policy for reference.*

Type name(s) and telephone numbers (s)	Conflict of Interest?	Signature(s)
--	-----------------------	--------------

_____ 294-_____	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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_____ 294-_____	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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_____ 294-_____	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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4. Project Duration:  /  /  -  /  /  5. Estimated Funding Required: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Funding Source: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Proposed Funding Mechanism:

☐ Expanded DOE Programmatic Research  
☐ Work for Others  
☐ CRADA

☐ Work for Other DOE Laboratories/Contractors  
☐ Work for Others Federal Agencies  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*(Identify)*

8. Description of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(Continue on attachment if necessary)*

9. Technology Transfer/Industrial Competitiveness Benefits: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(Continue on attachment if necessary)*

10. Space in which Project will be conducted, Building/Room No.(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Would Project interfere with other approved work?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

12. Could Project be conveniently/economically conducted by a private entity?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

13. Will results of this Project be published and shared broadly within the scientific community?

Yes ☐ No ☐

14. Does this project involve human subjects or animal research?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_



**Part 2a. ES&H Review** *(to be completed and signed by the Principal Investigator and ESH&A)*

The proposed work must be planned, budgeted and conducted in accordance with applicable ES&H requirements.

Readiness Review

Does the proposed project include new or significantly modified activities, which have not been reviewed and approved by the Ames Laboratory Safety Review Committee?

☐ YES (Please complete and attach an Activity ES&H Hazard Identification Checklist for each new or significantly modified activity related to this proposed work.)

☐ NO (No Further Action)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Investigator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ESH&A Office Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Comments:

**Part 2b. NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Implications** *(to be completed by ESH&A)*

*Does this proposed project fall under the Laboratory's blanket Categorical Exclusion (B3.6), "Indoor Bench-Scale Research Projects and Conventional Laboratory Activities?"*

☐ YES (No Further Action)

☐ NO (ESH&A will have Principal Investigator complete an *Environmental Evaluation Form* [CH-560] for further NEPA review by ESH&A.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ESH&A Office Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Comments:

**Part 3. Budget and Personnel Requirements** *(Completed with assistance of Budget Office)*

Include resource needs to address all aspects of the project including ES&H, NEPA, and waste disposal actions. *(Attach supplementary schedule as required)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Office Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Part 4. Export Control** *(To be completed by EC Officer)*

If funded, research described in the attached proposal ☐ will / ☐ will not be "fundamental research".

\_\_\_\_\_  
Export Control Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 5. Laboratory Approvals** *(NOTE: The signatures below certify that they have reviewed the proposal for, and addressed, if necessary, any potential conflict of interest on the part of Ames Laboratory employees who have a substantial role in the preparation, negotiation, or approval of this project.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager-Office of Industrial Outreach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Summary: As per DOE Order 481.1B and DOE M 481.1-1; this document certifies that: 1) The proposed work is consistent with or complementary to DOE missions and the missions of the facility to which the work is to be assigned. 2) The proposed work will not adversely impact execution of assigned programs of the facility. 3) The proposed work will not place the facility in direct competition with the domestic private sector. 4) The proposed work will not create a detrimental future burden on DOE resources.

*Note: After Deputy Director approves, return to Office of Industrial Outreach Secretary, 311 TASF, for distribution.*

DOE-CH 560  
Effective (03/02)

CH NEPA Tracking Number: \_\_\_\_\_

CHICAGO OPERATIONS OFFICE  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT  
ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION NOTIFICATION FORM

Solicitation/Award No. (if Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's Name: Ames Laboratory DOETitle Of Proposed Project/Research: Indoor Bench-Scale Research Projects and Conventional Laboratory Operations.Funding Source: DOE, WFO, or CRADAContractor Project Manager: Dr. Tom J. Barton Signature: [Signature]  
Phone Number: 515-294-2770 Date: 5/19/05Contractor NEPA Reviewer: Dan Kayser Signature: Daniel A. Kayser  
Phone Number: 515-294-7923 Date: 5/18/05

I. Description of Proposed Action:

All proposed actions will be indoors bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations conducted in established buildings at the Ames Laboratory and Iowa State University. Specifically, bench-scale chemical, biological, physical and theoretical studies, experiments, and related activities including the assembly/disassembly of experimental instrumentation and research equipment are within the scope of the proposed actions.

This categorical exclusion determination does not apply to the following activities:

- Research activities that require major <sup>\*</sup>building renovations or which might *impact* historic structures *or equipment*
- Biohazard work classified as Biosafety Level 2 or above.
- Research activities that generate "No Path Forward" wastes.
- Research activities that require new or modified regulatory permits.
- Pilot-scale or production activities to verify a concept or demonstrates a process.

II. Description of Affected Environment:

All proposed activities will be conducted indoors in existing bench-scale laboratory spaces. The Ames Laboratory has a procedure (Readiness Review) in place that addresses environment, safety and health implications for each research activity at the Laboratory. All environmental concerns are addressed at a formal meeting by the Environmental Specialist and resolved prior to the start of proposed activities.

DOE-CH 560  
Effective (03/02)

CH NEPA Tracking Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Potential Environmental Effects:

NOTE: Attach explanation for each "yes" response.

**A. Sensitive Resources: Will the proposed action result in changes and/or disturbances to any of the following resources?**

	<u>Yes/No</u>
1. Threatened/Endangered Species and/or Critical Habitats	— X
2. Other Protected Species (e.g. Burros, Migratory Birds)	— X
3. Wetlands	— X
4. Archaeological/Historic Resources	— X
5. Prime, Unique or Important Farmland	— X
6. Non-Attainment Areas	— X
7. Class I Air Quality Control Region	— X
8. Special Sources of Groundwater (e.g. Sole Source Aquifer)	— X
9. Navigable Air Space	— X
10. Coastal Zones	— X
11. Areas w/Special National Designation (e.g. National Forests, Parks, Trails)	— X
12. Floodplain	— X
13. Natural Resource Damage Assessments	— X
14. Exotic Organisms	— X
15. Federal Noxious Weed Act	— X

**B. Regulated Substances/Activities: Will the proposed action involve any of the following regulated substances or activities?**

	<u>Yes/No</u>
16. Clearing or Excavation (indicate if greater than 5 acres)	— X
17. Dredge or Fill (under Clean Water Act section 404, indicate if greater than 10 acres)	— X
18. Noise (in excess of regulations)	— X
19. Asbestos Removal	— X
20. PCBs	X —
Any PCBs associated with the proposed activities will be limited to the use of analytical standards and work with laboratory scale quantities of PCB-contaminated materials.	



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21. Import, Manufacture or Processing of Toxic Substances — x
22. Chemical Storage/Use x —  
The proposed research activities may involve the use and storage of chemicals. Chemicals are typically small quantities ( $\leq 1$  liter). All chemicals are handled according to the Ames Laboratory's Chemical Hygiene Plan. In the event that chemicals are stored and/or used in quantities  $\geq$  those listed in 40 CFR Parts 355 and 372, will under go Readiness Review process prior to starting the activity.
23. Pesticide Use — x
24. Hazardous, Toxic, or Criteria Pollutant Air Emissions x —  
Some bench-scale research activities may emit low levels of hazardous Air pollutants or criteria pollutants as defined by the Clean Air Act. Given the limited quantities of materials used in bench-scale Activities, emissions will not have a significant impact on the environment. Research activities involving radionuclide air emissions must go through the Laboratory's Readiness Review process prior to their start.
25. Liquid Effluent x —  
The proposed research activities that generate liquid effluent are subject to the Laboratory's Readiness Review process prior to their start. Ames Laboratory ES&H policy and procedures prohibit the disposal of hazardous materials and chemicals in any drains.
26. Underground Injection — x
27. Hazardous Waste x —  
The proposed activities may involve generation of hazardous waste. Waste will be accumulated, managed and documented in accordance with the Ames Laboratory's Waste Management Program manual. All chemical users are required to take the Laboratory's Waste Generator Training.
28. Underground Storage Tanks — x
29. Radioactive (AEA) Mixed Waste — x
30. Radioactive Waste x —  
The proposed activities may involve generation of radioactive waste. Waste will be accumulated, managed and documented in accordance with the Ames Laboratory's Waste Management Program Manual. All chemical users are required to take the Laboratory's Waste Generator Training.
31. Radiation Exposures x —  
The proposed activities may involve use of radioactive materials or Radiation-generating devices. Radiological protection will be provided by the Radiation Safety Officer according to the Ames Laboratory's Radiation Safety Manual. Planned radiation exposures will follow the principle of "As Low as Reasonably Achievable" and will not exceed the Ames Laboratory's administrative limits.
32. Surface Waste Protection — x
33. Pollution Prevention Act x —  
Pollution prevention is taken into account when an activity goes



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through the Readiness Review process.

34. Ozone Depleting Substances  
Some bench-scale research activities may use and emit low levels of ozone depleting substances. X

35. Off Road Vehicles X

C. Other Relevant Disclosures. Will the proposed action involve the following?

- |  | <u>Yes/No</u> |
|--|---------------|
| 36. A threatened violation of ES&H regulations/permit requirements   | — X           |
| 37. Siting/Construction/Major Modification of Waste Recovery, or TSD Facilities  | — X           |
| 38. Disturbance of Pre-existing Contamination  | — X           |
| 39. New or Modified Federal/State Permits  | — X           |
| 40. Public controversy<br>(e.g. Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 consideration and other related public issues)   | — X           |
| 41. Action/involvement of Another Federal Agency<br>(e.g. license, funding, approval)  | — X           |
| 42. Action of a State Agency in a State with NEPA-type law.<br>(Does the State Environmental Quality Review Act Apply?)  | — X           |
| 43. Public Utilities/Services  | — X           |
| 44. Depletion of a Non-Renewable Resource.....   | — X           |
| 45. Extraordinary Circumstances  | — X           |
| 46. Connected Actions  | — X           |
| 47. Is the proposed work bench-top research...<br>All research activities are non-production activities. Activities are small scale (bench-top) and are carried out in a laboratory setting in an existing building.   | X —           |
| 48. Will the proposed work be performed in an existing laboratory setting.<br>.....<br>Research activities will be conducted in an existing Ames Laboratory and/or Iowa State University laboratory. No new facilities/buildings will be built for a single project. | X —           |
| 49. Is the proposed work a paper study rather than laboratory bench-top research .....   | X P.S.        |

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**NOTE:** Do not complete any information below. This information will be completed at the Chicago Operation Office

**IV. DOE-CH NEPA COMPLIANCE REVIEW****A. DOE-CH Program Office Review:**

Typed Name and Title: MICHAEL O. SAAR  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 6/17/05

**B. DOE-CH NEPA Review:**

**Section D Determination:** Is the project/activity appropriate for a determination by the NEPA Compliance Officer (NCO) under Subpart D of the DOE NEPA Regulations for compliance with NEPA? (Circle one)

Yes

No

Indicate the recommendation and specific class of action from Appendix A-D to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021):

CX Category: B3.6

DOE CH NEPA Reviewer (Typed Name and Title): Peter R. Siebach  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 5/31/05

**C. DOE-CH LGL-GL CONCURRENCE (if necessary)**

Typed Name and Title:  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 6/16/05

**DOE-CH NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER REVIEW AND DETERMINATION**

The preceding pages are a record of documentation required under DOE Final NEPA Regulation, 10 CFR Part 1021.400 that establishes an action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review. I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. Therefore by my signature below, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Signature: [Signature]  
Peter Siebach  
DOE-CH NEPA Compliance Officer  
Phone No.: 630-252-2007

Date: 6/16/05 \*2

\* renovation limited to minor activities as defined by

10 CFR 1021.410 B3.6

\*2 Valid through 9/30/08